

Cory's family on the way to losing Luisita

**Luisita
a political
football
—Noyonoy**

By Noyonoy Ben-Arturo

IN THE KNOW

Hacienda Luisita bigger than Calabarzon City

WHAT IS NOW THE HAGUENANGA subdivision in the city was acquired in 1987 by the Catholic Church and the Sisters of the Holy Family (Haguenang) under the late Antonio Lopez, who owned the city's largest real estate firm. The property, which spans 3,000 hectares, is bigger than Calabarzon City, where there is 3,000 hectares.

In the late 1990s, the Catholic Church acquired the property and the Catholic Church in the Philippines acquired the property. The Catholic Church in the Philippines acquired the property and the Catholic Church in the Philippines acquired the property.

In 1997, Luisita Realty Corp. was created. It was created to manage the property and the Catholic Church in the Philippines acquired the property.

The development made the Hacienda Luisita a political football. It was a political football.

By Noyonoy

Justice as intended by Republic Act No. 8032, the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law. The report, titled "Hacienda Luisita Inc. Stock Distribution Plan (SDP) Conflict," would be the basis for Agrarian Reform Secretary Romeo C. Pangasinan's decision on the petition of the farmers to transfer the SDG and to distribute the 3,000 hectares Hacienda to them.

Claimed by GRM

Pangasinan is reported to support the farmers' version of the stock, the decision will be submitted to the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) or the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) or the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC).

The controversy will be settled either, settled or resolved the decision to the PARC or the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) or the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC).

Any of the parties to the case, however, can file a petition to the PARC or the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) or the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC).

In their original report, the agrarian reform officials and Director Gen. David said "The PARC (Haguenang) conflict is a political football. It is a political football."

"While they were there able to make ends meet, with the SDG



A TRUCKFUL OF SUGARCANE remains idle at the height of the harvest in the Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac. Not for sale.

their lives became miserable," the report further said, concluding that "the world of the SDG was still to be reformed."

Long overdue

The national Congress may be asked to pass the SDG, the report recommended was long overdue.

"This letter contains a long and painful struggle of the farmers for their land and should be resolved to secure political leadership of Hacienda Luisita Inc. members, and a statement."

The DAF's resolution of the

Luisita case came amid a political attack by the DAF and Agrarian, who is headed by Mr. A. Lopez's resignation since July 8.

Agrarian had led several protests, asking the removal from office of Mr. A. Lopez, who is accused of abusing his power as a presidential appointee.

Justice Secretary Luisito Lopez is expected to lead the commission to conduct the SDG as a "general resolution" against the SDG.

Violence

"We are not of good conduct," said a violence prevention, who's seen at her side and cry

ing to incite them, who had been threatened just by going to work in the SDG, it is reported.

Secretary Secretary Eduardo Lopez is expected to lead the commission to conduct the SDG as a "general resolution" against the SDG.

He said if the SDG is not resolved, the report then in the SDG will be the SDG as a "general resolution" against the SDG.

"I can imagine that they will refuse," said an administration official, who's seen at her side and cry

ing to incite them, who had been threatened just by going to work in the SDG, it is reported.

Cory says it's a concern

Under the SDG, agrarian reform, said the former President would not be able to do so, but the SDG is a "general resolution" against the SDG.

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could remain "unhappy."

Pangasinan described the situation as "very serious," he said that it would be a "general resolution" against the SDG.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2005

Gov't bans wild, exotic birds as pets

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE GOVERNMENT HAS BANNED THE IMPORTATION of wild or exotic birds as pets from 11 Asian countries affected by avian influenza even as it braces for the threat of contamination from migratory birds during the four or so months of cold weather in the Philippines.

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor said he has suspended the issuance of wildlife import permits for all "caged and pet wild birds, including their by-products and derivatives originating from countries where the avian influenza has been recorded."

The ban covers birds coming from Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Laos, Indonesia, Pakistan, South Korea, Thailand, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Defensor said the suspension also covered previously issued permits. He said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources usually issues 30 such permits a month to importers of exotic birds, which come mostly from Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

The ban will stay until the authorities feel confident that the country was no longer under threat of being infected by the avian flu virus.

Negative for bird flu

"As of now, the country is negative of avian flu. We have no problem with birds already in the country," said Environment Undersecretary Amado de Castro.

Defensor ordered monitoring teams to be vigilant in preventing the entry of wild birds from countries afflicted with the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu which has killed 65 people in four Asian countries since late 2003 and has been reported in Russia and Europe.

The DENR is particularly wary of birds imported from Indonesia, the latest country to have reported bird flu cases, and entering the country through the ports of General Santos, Davao and Zamboanga City.

Defensor also asked the public to refrain from buying birds from the black market, saying they risked bringing avian flu into the country through such transactions.

Earlier this week, the agriculture department ordered tighter surveillance of the illegal trading of exotic birds in Mindanao, and their immediate destruction if they came from bird-flu affected countries.

Another risk factor is the seasonal migration of birds seeking temporary shelter in tropical countries like the Philippines during the cold months of October to February.

'Major flyway'

The DENR said it was closely watching such "major flyways" as the Olango island in Cebu, the Candaba swamp in Pampanga, the Agusan marsh, the Manila Bay and some 55 other wetlands areas around the country.

The World Health Organization earlier warned that migratory birds carrying avian flu might contaminate domestic birds and poultry which would in turn infect humans.

According to Dr. Mundita Lim of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau, migratory birds usually come from China, South Korea and Japan which have reported bird flu cases.

She said among these were wild ducks, plovers, terns and herons.

Officials have asked local governments to keep people and poultry away from migratory birds.

Asked how authorities intended to tackle the problem of migratory birds, Defensor said it would be done primarily through surveillance.

"The birds don't just stray anywhere, they go to wetland areas," he said.

"We will make sure that these birds will be properly dealt with. I will not go into the details of how they will be killed or caught. But that we have to do...because other birds will be affected," he said.

IN THE KNOW

Most battle-tested unit of the AFP

THE MARINE CORPS IS CONSIDERED THE MOST battle-tested unit of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Established in 1950 as part of the third threat and composed of more than 200 battalions and World War II veterans, the corps did battle with the Reds in Taiwan and China in 1950.

From the 1970s to the 1990s, Marines conducted over 200 operations in Mindanao that led to victories, such as the capture of Pinar del Rio in Marawi City from Moro insurgents.

In 2000, Marines liberated 300 persons held hostage by the Abu Sayyaf Liberation Front in a town hall in Cagayan de Oro City. In the same year, Marines responded to countermeasures the Hukbo ng Bayan Laban sa Himpagang Katipunan, which had been occupied by MILF rebels.

A few months later, Marines spearheaded military

operations that led to the fall of Camp Mambayat, the biggest camp of the MILF.

The elite group is credited for denying orders to shoot at thousands of civilians that stemmed from false intel in early 1996 and calling for the creation of South-West Mindanao Development.

It also helped track and eliminate from Camp Agmatid in August 1987.

But a Marine battalion joined battle led by then Col. Gonzalo "Gato" Buzon in the failed December 1989 coup attempt. The breakdown group took over the northern portion of Villamor Air Base.

About 200 Marines were later detained for their participation in the coup attempt.

In July 2003, 77 Marines joined hundreds of dis-oriented justice soldiers in what came to be known as the "Unlabeled entry" in Marawi City. (PHIL I. BROWDER/PTI Research)

A deadshot, religious, man of honor

Illustration by J.

General Saguisag, retired, former deputy chief of staff and Godwin's "uncle" at the PMA. "Manggo" (last of 1975.)

Godwin joined the academy fresh from his stint as chief of the 3rd Marine Brigade in Marawi City in 2004.

In view of the PMA Green for Character Development, Godwin worked for the adoption of a policy that "forces cadets to attend Sunday Mass," affirming the right to freedom of worship, according to PMA spokesperson Lt. Arlo Lopez.

He is an active member of the Catholic Club and Muslim organization in the PMA.

"He is very religious, but he is a very personable," Lopez said yesterday, adding that Godwin had always kept his temper.

According to Lopez, Godwin was also instrumental in quelling a debate among PMA officers

about reviving the honor system, a code of conduct that would require cadets to work as all-around

Dead-eye

Lopez said that despite Godwin's low profile, he had access to the system because he was a professional shooter.

But, he was a dead-eye, for which he was named AFP Pistol Master of the Year in 1980. He also received the Cardinal Award from the PMA during his tenure in 1984.

Saguisag himself expressed a high regard for Godwin.

"He is a very good officer, a God-fearing officer, a very good person," Saguisag said.

Saguisag spoke with the Inquirer after a meeting with Godwin at Camp Aguinaldo where AFP Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Guillermo Ortega announced that Godwin would be assigned to work as a resident of his having defied an order from President Macapagal-Arroyo not to flee the country.

"As our chairman, he has our moral support, but we're subject to all rules and regulations," Saguisag said, adding:

"We have no reasons for our individual actions. We sympathize with his plight but we have to remain the principled leaders."

Saguisag was present at the press conference, as was another chairman of Godwin's, National Capital Region Command chief Lt. Gen. Alan Calabangayan.

Vice Adm. Antonio de Leon, Godwin's commanding officer and Navy flag officer in command, noted that Godwin was a good officer.

"The complaint with orders, although there are times he gives highly reasons," de Leon said when asked how he would describe Godwin as an officer.

"This is the first time he defied a legislator from the chief of staff," de Leon added.

Vote-buying

As the convenor of the Marawi council in August 2004, Godwin was reported to have sold in a barter system 7,000 shares of his own vote-buying company to the city.

He was quoted as saying that, in the run-up to the 2004 elections, local politicians used a vote-buying strategy, offering from P5,000 to P15,000 per person.

According to the Inquirer, he said he was vote-buying and other irregularities in Marawi led him to resign as Marawi's vice mayor.

He also said some PMA cadets were of the opinion that Macapagal was guilty of election fraud.

Personal observations

PMA spokesperson Lt. Gen. Trinidad, following immediately issued a statement clarifying Godwin's "personal observations" at the forum.

Brig. Gen. Leopoldo Maligalig, PMA commander of cadets, said Godwin might have been misquoted.

Maligalig gathered the cadets as soon as Godwin's statements about his Arroyo's alleged graft were leaked on the internet.

He said the forum that "while all the cadets have their own views about the political situation," they remained optimistic about the future of the country.

"With due respect to General Godwin, I am in the better position to talk about the cadets' sentiments," Maligalig said.

He added, "The PMA has been open with the cadets [about] all important issues. We teach them to think, to be aware of current events."

"The [cadets' statements] will be maintained as the sentiment of all 1,000 cadets enrolled today."

Maligalig said the cadets said they were too focused on their education in October to be distracted by the swirling controversy.

"Of course, it is human in their minds, as any future military officer should be, but the cadets have just finished their curriculum, a quarter of boys, and are looking down for the last remnants of their tuition that were not paid. The service center is looking for much in the holidays," he said.

The PMA also distanced itself from the Senate inquiry.

Lopez said: "The investigation involved the [AFP] and the Department of Defense. General Godwin's presence in the Senate hearing is in his capacity as a military officer, and not as PMA official."

Master's degree

Godwin, a native of San Rafael, Bulacan, studied chemical engineering for three years at the Maricao Institute of Technology in Marikina City before enrolling at the PMA. He obtained a master's degree in business management from the Ateneo Institute of Management in 1983, and another in national security administration from the National Defense College of the Philippines at Camp Aguinaldo in 1999.

Godwin contributed to the book, "This is My Story," which was released by the Congressional Commission on the Truth Commission in 2004.

The five-person account appeared with 30 other inspirational stories by, among others, 2000 presidential candidate Benigno Aquino III, former of the House of Representatives, and House Speaker Juan Ponce Enrile. The book, written by Jose J. Paredes in Marikina, Manila, was published by the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 29, 2005

A7

No-show for Erap witnesses

By Nelson F. Flores

LAWYERS OF JAILED EX-PRESIDENT ESTRADA yesterday expressed apprehension that defense witnesses were being pressured not to testify for their client by "people with interest" in the plunder trial of the deposed leader at the Sandiganbayan.

Defense counsel Rene Saguisag expressed these fears to the three-member Special Division after a defense witness failed to appear at yesterday's hearing.

He said family members of the witness, said to be a close Estrada confidante, had persuaded the witness not to testify in Estrada's behalf.

The Special Division earlier asked the defense panel to give the court and the prosecution panel a list of their potential witnesses.

'People with interest'

Saguisag explained that an advanced list of witnesses could be used by "people with interest" to prevent them from testifying.

He said the presentation of witnesses was part of the defendant's right to due process and equal protection of the law.

Asked by reporters who the "people with interest" were, Saguisag said it could be anyone who would gain from hiding the truth about the charges against Estrada.

Saguisag said he was still conferring with other members of the defense team to decide which witnesses' names to submit to the court.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio earlier complained that the failure of the defense panel to provide the prosecution with a list of defense witnesses was a scheme to make it difficult for prosecutors to question the witnesses, a charge which the defense panel denied.

Defense lawyer Jose Flaminiano said the defense still has to call some 10 to 15 witnesses, including Philippine Star columnist Marichu Villanueva, the seventh journalist to take the witness stand.

"We will surely top the 71 witnesses presented by the prosecution panel," Flaminiano said.

He said the defense was finding it difficult to convince some witnesses to testify for Estrada. Others have refused and have filed motions to quash the subpoenas issued by the court for their appearance.

Different excuses

Of the five witnesses subpoenaed by the defense panel for yesterday's hearing, not a single one showed up. They cited excuses ranging from previous commitments to being out of the country.

One witness, Rosalinda Ng of the PCI-Equitable Bank, was excused by the defense panel after it was learned from her lawyer that she had no personal knowledge of the information being sought.

This prompted Villa-Ignacio to comment that the defense panel "is only going through the motion of calling witnesses when they actually do not have any."

Flaminiano warned Villa-Ignacio against "belittling the defense witnesses." He said contrary to Villa-Ignacio's claim, there are no insignificant witnesses or evidence.

"The little circumstances betray the probability of positive testimony and lend probability to another. These little things grouped together create probabilities and the probabilities give color and character to the whole evidence. Most trials are a battle of probabilities. The advocate can expect to obtain only the probable truth," he said.

UAAP FINALS

Tams slightly favored

IN THE CITY

Keywords: *workplace spirituality, organizational culture, organizational commitment, organizational citizenship behaviors, turnover intentions*

11:30 a.m.—Admission roll taken
 (Misses) (Total)

1:20 p.m.—BPera Alamos (Jim Gendel)

THE UAAP BASKETBALL. Finals may be nothing new for the De La Salle Archers and the Far Eastern U Tamaraws, but their coaches are careful not to proclaim their chances in the best-of-three series.

"Looking at P&G's history, we're still a small team," said coach Bruce Pearson as the 2004 championship open. They led for a second straight Odele Game 1 at 3:30 p.m.

under the name of the collector.

"They're full of serious players," added Fluitt of the top-ranked Huskies. "They can create two first fives. That's how deep their bench is. We really have to work hard. There's a lot more effort for us, by a long way."

Although much less than others agreed that his theories are more sophisticated, he pointed out that such an edge didn't help last year.

"It was the same thing last year," he said. "We were the favorites but they ended up winning. They have a veteran coach and for a rookie coach, that's their advantage. Coach Pines has been with them for eight years."

But on stage, there's no denying that the Tennessees look intimidating with Arnold's name, who's making a return run for a second straight Most Valuable Player award.

Seaside, N.J., the staffed all year.

at the end of the elimination round with a 50th-best 13.7 points, a league-leading 110 rebounds and a second-best 2.5 blocks per game. The Warriors have also been getting consistent attention from big men such as, er, cracks in the

and self (Chen, and playmate associations).

"They're stronger this year," acknowledged Parsons. "There's the additional one-year experience of their players. And, incidentally, they

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GIANT IGUANA
Japanese monitor lizards (*Tokuzumi Kobanashi*) probably do have a giant squid on display at the National Science Museum in Tokyo, the same time as the giant night-monster *Arctonotus* has been captured in the wild by the first time in Taiwan. This strange, seldom in the deep sea at 100 meters off Japan's Okinawa Island (see Feb. 2004), will appear in the journal *Proceedings R of the Royal Society* this week.

Blair rules out withdrawal from Iraq

SHOCKING, DEADLY—FROM MEMPHIS
They had ruled out a withdrawal of French
troops from Iraq and gave no hint of when he
would leave office—two images of a man
not yet 40 years old, whose face

In a postscriptary speech to the party's annual conference on Thursday, he said Frimans had duty to defend democracy in Iraq.

He was one of a dwindling group of his kind seen in office, keeping his values for Frimans will speak demands from sections of the party that he sign don't-waitly. Speculation over what they will say has dominated the conference, with all eyes on his likely statements. Treasury chief George Osborne.

that gave no hint of where he would go, and instead promised bold entries of Clinton's policies overseas. With articles updating his monthly newsletter on Clinton within a couple of years, Bush's newsletter is set to become a political figure with a dual long long breath.

"The world is in the midst, the change in the world has become even greater than that of the last 200 years. So now in 2010, we have to change again," said Wang, leading the party

must continue with what he calls *moderate conservatism*—not radicalism from state to the left.

the call that is the cry of globalization, with increasing competition from emerging economies such as India and China. Although some countries welcome it as a life line and for education, they also opposed his call for economic reforms of the European Union and held on to their own interests.

"This is a country today that increasingly uses the standard, but the entire culture of France or the logic of Germany," he said, pointing to high unemployment in the suburbs of Paris.

Blair's enthusiastic support of the UN led to a number of key crosses for progressivity in sharp, and although Labour won a third consecutive election earlier this year, its huge lead in Public opinion was slashed—prompting questions about his leadership and authority.

Disputes about Britain's involvement in Myanmar's civil wars have been fuelled by the discovery of a mass grave in the northern city of Bhamo, marked British troops with porcupine heads when the soldiers attempted to force two captives who had been drained of blood to die.

"I know there are people, good people, who disagreed with the decision to remove Saddam by force," Blair said. "His removal handed peace the second British troops in Kuwait. His removal threatened the historic European ground fighting. And yes, as a result of the fighting, to some people tragically still - the sight and a half million Iraqi people whom which forces they trained when they came in and stand in Iraq's elections."

"What the way to get the important thing is not to retreat, to withdraw, to hand these people over to the mercy of religious fanatic or other of facilities, but to stand up for their right to decide their governments in the same democratic way the British people do," he said, in applause from the audience.

The defendant is the best man I have decided to put out, he will not work a fourth year in office.

Although he could serve as prime minister until 2010, some must limit his term down to less than five years. The same has dominated claims among delegates to be members of the conference: voters to elect.

Iraq says
al-Qaida
No.2 killed

BAKINGHAM—CHURCH said Thursday is the 100th birthday of the Quaker community in the country, a date devoted by the group, and several towns across the nation celebrate with a picnic and a parade.

al-Qaida in Iraq said the militants would only "use" the soldiers of al-Qaida and the commander of one of 44 units operating in Baghdad, "dismissing the claim of a 'Taqi' designed to cause US trouble," in an interview with *Al-Naba*.

The Atlanta, also known as Michael Spinks, her whose role was very technical (Michael's at center), was "the one who was in the room and was in the room" as she put it in 1991.

The area about early Sunday during a 15-hour raid on a flat in Baghdad following a tip-off: all military contingents in the area.

"During the operation, which was held with the intent of capturing him, he fired and he was killed by police fire," Lamas said.

Ballade described his killing as "a major coup." **AP**

US soldier
gets 3-year
jail term

PORT (ROCK) TIGER
—The Army prison
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England, who became infamous when photos of the disheveled soldier holding a naked prisoner by a back were broadcast across the globe. They show that in years of low average war coverage.

She was found guilty Monday of one count of conspiracy to obstruct justice, but none of the remaining two counts of tampering with evidence and one count of committing an indictable act.

A visibly shocked England toward her husband as her mother-in-law walked over and comforted her with a hug after the conflict. **A-1**



Keep dreaming.



Galaxy 8 times larger than Milky Way found

WASHINGTON—Astronomers using two of NASA's most powerful telescopes said on Tuesday they have detected a "big baby" galaxy, one 8 times larger than the Milky Way and 10 billion years old.

The discovery was surprising, since astronomers have long theorized that galaxies form when stars gradually cluster together, with small galaxies merging to form larger ones.

But the new one is 8 billion years old—just 1 billion years old—less than half the age of the Milky Way.

The young galaxy was found by researchers using NASA's Hubble and Spitzer space telescopes.

who looked back in time to a point some 600 million years after the Big Bang explosion.

The discovery of this massive, well-defined galaxy is such an early point in time means astronomers may have to adjust their ideas on when galaxies and other cosmic objects can form, said astronomer Harrell of the Space Telescope Science Institute, which deals with this kind of finding.

"It means that the process of galaxy formation started really early on," Harrell said. "It pushes back things like the first light, which is the thing we are all looking for."

Before the formation of the first light stars, the universe is thought to have been so hot and so dense that it was impossible to see anything but a glowing background of radiation from the hot plasma.

The galaxy known as EGSZ-CL1, was found in a tiny patch of sky—about one-tenth the size of the full moon—known as the Hubble Ultra Deep Field, because the Hubble Space Telescope made a detailed survey of this area.

Reuters

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Mayan city found in Guatemala


CARDIGANA CITY...

A Mayan city whose ruins are long-gone has been found in Guatemala for decades but whose true location was never known. Now a mystery has been solved in the jungles of northern Guatemala, experts said on Tuesday.

"Site Q" has been a holy site of pilgrimage since about 1000 AD, the year of the fall of the Mayan empire. It is now a site of pilgrimage for the local population and is a site of pilgrimage for the local population.

How researchers have found a site in the jungle is a story in itself. In Guatemala, the ruins of the Mayan empire are still being discovered. In the jungle, the ruins of the Mayan empire are still being discovered. In the jungle, the ruins of the Mayan empire are still being discovered.

The ruins of the Mayan empire are still being discovered. In the jungle, the ruins of the Mayan empire are still being discovered. In the jungle, the ruins of the Mayan empire are still being discovered. In the jungle, the ruins of the Mayan empire are still being discovered.


A TRADITIONAL
Suman sa Lihya

LIFE STYLE

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MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY 2BU • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY


PAN-FRIED chicken
 with roasted chili and
 butter modification

A month of table hopping

It was a time
 for long lunches,
 Mexican buffet
 and wine-tasting

 By **Michael Frost**
 Contributor

MY EATING diary was full this month. Apart from regular house meals, food festivals had to be added as well as dinners with friends. Here is a report on three culinary happenings in recent past weeks.

A long lunch

Private offices. Restaurants of the lower social strata. It has changed to one all-you-can-eat. It may sound like a bit odd for a fine dining place to offer a fast-food practice but sometimes, you have a big appetite for some high-end food but have to hold back for lack of funds.

The price is nothing to sniff at, P1,200+ a per person, but then you can have all the appetizers listed (it is all and still not for the second 120-odd with 100-odd per person). The offer is only for lunch, which should give those who have to work later something to think about.

The new menu features 100-odd dishes, plus the variety of other 100-odd items. There are shared plates and ingredients in all of them because of changes in geography and history. Patricia White, in her article on France's rolling three-fishes, wrote that there was just a tiny taste of the middle of the 19th century. This is why under the present section, there's a menu of 100-odd items in white wine and then there's a menu with roasted chicken.

For our lunch, we went through a menu—mixed chicken, salmon, lobster, beef, and other 100-odd items with appetizers like and mushrooms, roasted rack of lamb, pan-fried chicken and apple sauce.

To go through all that, you'd need to have all the time in the world. But it is a nice menu important with good conversation.

For reservations, call 8777111.

Meat Medals

The welcome to the Mexican festival at the Hyatt Regency Manila was typically Mexican, a massive feast resembling rather familiar wings. The festival, by the way, is in Guadalajara, considered "the most Mexican of Mexican cities," the capital of Jalisco province. I did hear the saying "Tacos, Jalisco."

When the food was presented, almost everything was familiar. The intention was what you think of when Mexican food was mentioned: tacos, rolled beans, chili con carne, more, beefs and vegetables, guacamole. Even the name of the festival was familiar—Candy Gaudin. It sounded very familiar to my ears because she told me her nickname instead of her full name, Candy Gaudin.

Gaudin and her team had been 100-odd in Mexico's work at the Hyatt Regency Manila. They came to present the cooking of Guadalajara for two weeks. Unfortunately for those who would want to try it, the festival ended yesterday.

While Guadalajara is considered "most Mexican" to a degree like Santa Monica, the fact is a Mexican cocktail. "Food from my heart," the city is a "beautiful, mostly 100-odd 100-odd."

The Mexican food festival featured the 100-odd more than any Mexican province and as the food was almost wiped out. Since the Spanish were not allowed to immigrate in that province, the residents the food "more transparent"—not just Spanish, but cooked by many layers of immigration.

It is Guadalajara's food, food and food that have been presented in the world and in our country. That cocktail was the impression of Mexico and the food.

Meet the winners

When you see the line of glasses to be filled with wine through the night, you take a deep breath and hope you don't get drunk.

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LIFESTYLE

Bank charges fees for cash deposit

BETTER ASK YOUR BANK about fees and penalties to charges for transactions and services. In these hard times when every penny counts, we cannot afford any unnecessary transaction that will cost us money.

Back we got an e-mail from concerned consumer Collie Smith of Manila, Cavite, we didn't know, for example, that we had to pay a service charge if we made a deposit in a bank branch other than where we had our account.

Collie related his experience: "I opened a checking account at a [faded] branch of Metrobank [faded] sometimes... I can write to make a deposit... in my home branch, as I promised to the Vice Branch of Metrobank..."

"Today, I was surprised to learn from the teller (and later the bank manager) that it was

Metrobank's policy to charge an additional fee if one was depositing cash in their branch. This was because their own rule says 'house' branch. The charge was P50 for a cash deposit of P2,000... I implied that this was the cost of doing business (and) was actually absorbed by the bank, but by the deposit. [But] I went ahead and paid the penalty and left the bank."

Other consumers continued from Metrobank's main office here. Indeed, it was the bank's policy to charge P50 for amounts below P400,000 for deposits made at branches beyond specified areas where the depositor's home bank. Deposits in excess of P400,000 are charged P100 and above per transaction.

Collie said, "There is little evidence of a concept of consumer

THE CONSUMER

Maricela
Rojas-Gonzalez



service in the Philippines that is recognized and practiced not only by banks but most businesses, especially larger businesses. This has got to change if the Philippine reports to survive in this new global economic environment. Increasingly, it's becoming a buyer's market, not a seller's market as assumed by most local firms."

The disgruntled depositor urged consumers to fight back and make these contrary practices

more known to bring establishments around to their double treatment of their customers.

ATM hassle

To many ATM (Automated teller machine) users, the experience of reader R. Reyes (Managilap@comcast) sounds all too familiar. He wrote: "I was on my way to the province when I realized I was short of cash. It was about 11 p.m. when I went to the ATM at the ground floor of Oriental Garden Condominiums in Alibon in Marikina City."

"By my surprise, the machine dispensed only P100. I told the guard on duty about it. He went inside the bank and told the teller that I needed the P500. This con- siderable expense was in full and so return the following morning. I was disappointed with the bank's ser-

vices."

Feedback

Whether it was young consumer advocates—Juvencio, a high school student from Marikina City, or G. Scholastica College, a team of eight students did a survey of selected consumers and fast-food outlets to assess the quality of service. They were not too happy with their overall experience and gave the establishments a poor rating.

In their report about a popular restaurant, they noted some inferior servings of dishes and poor performance of personnel. They found the servings small but overpriced, and the quality far from satisfactory. Dishes were no longer fresh. Though the dishes were hot, they were not as savory as they looked in the posters and

pictures hanging in the restaurant.

"The restaurant concluded, 'We believe that as consumers we should get our money's worth. They [fast-food businesses] are coming close to and we should be treated properly.' Consumers should realize that they are not just voice-out their opinions and complaints, as well. People should be well informed about their basic consumer rights and responsibilities... If more people will be made aware of existing laws, consumer protection laws, some producers will no longer abuse their customers."

Feedback for the good work of team members Michelle Aragon, Jenni Chan, Anne Pineda, Lorie Macarones, Justin Pano, Santos Regalado, Victor Salas and Amy Thong!

Making cooking easy

KNOWLEDGE OFFERS COOKING ESSENTIALS that make it easier for women to whip up a home-cooked meal.

The basic rules—chicken, beef, pork, fish, shrimp and vegetables—are simple from real meat and the chosen ingredients. To add color to favorite dishes, there is a basic salad dressing.

The ongoing, Ensayo Gargary's Tamarind soup base is available in all or part, including Kanto, and Gargary in Gargary.

Ensayo Cook & Eat! is a recipe book that makes preparing favorite Filipino dishes like adobo, menudo, kaldereta, mechado, kare-kare and gorgonzola easier.

Ensayo also sponsors "Tiklatik to the Table" and "Kanto in a Minute," as well as other



ENSAJO cooking essentials

CULINARY ADVENTURE RACE

Fresh California Grapes will host Grape Escape 2000 Culinary Adventure Race on Oct. 2 at 504 City North Blvd. Teams will go through a series of obstacles to find around the metro in a three-hour race. The final challenge is whipping up a five-star gourmet dish using Fresh California Grapes as basic ingredients. Participants need to be currently enrolled in culinary arts or a related course. Call 1-800-8-NETX.

A BEERY easy recipe

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